

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

DATE

Dec 58

STAT TO:

Mr. Komer

ROOM NO.

34

BUILDING

Admin

REMARKS:

FROM:

EO/DCI:JSEarman:blp

ROOM NO.

221

BUILDING

Admin

EXTENSION

STAT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DCI

DATE: 28 Nov. 1958

FROM : Bob Komer *PK*

Good for

SUBJECT: Changes in NSC Procedure

As you know Gordon Gray is determined to revamp NSC procedures to make them more responsive to emerging policy issues. Among other things, he reiterates that when you raise such a problem in your briefings (e.g. Iran) there should be some means whereby the Council can do something about it.

Now Mr. Gray is proposing some rather sweeping revisions in NSC procedure (see attached), which in my view are a long step in the right direction. Since they will inevitably involve an even larger CIA role, I would appreciate any reactions you might have prior to the Planning Board's discussion of them next Tuesday. Note particularly par. 4, which calls for Mr. Amory to give PB on Tuesday a brief preview (presumably on a selected basis) of the topics to be covered by you on Thursday. The purpose would be to single out any topics which raised policy issues and to prepare the principals to discuss them immediately following your briefing.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

November 25, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NSC PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: Proposed Modifications of NSC Procedure

The enclosed proposed modifications of NSC procedure, which Mr. Gray wishes to discuss with the Planning Board, are transmitted herewith as a basis for Planning Board discussion of the subject at the meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 1958.

MARION W. BOGGS
Director, Policy
Coordinating Secretariat

25
Nov
Gray

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PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF NSC PROCEDURE

1. The Planning Board, in connection with its discussion of any OCB Report which recommends a review of policy will prepare a statement (without recommendation) of major alternative lines of policy which might be considered. Immediately following the presentation of any such OCB Report at a Council meeting, the Council will be asked to discuss the Planning Board alternatives, but will not be expected to make a firm choice between alternatives at that time.

Purpose: To insure that alternatives are taken into account, to provide a basis for a more meaningful Council discussion of OCB Reports, and to provide Council (including Presidential) guidance to the Planning Board in its preparation of policy revisions.

2. When the Planning Board undertakes to prepare a draft statement of policy on a subject not previously covered by an NSC paper, the first step should be the preparation of a Staff Study, which should include both an analysis of the situation (with a summary of all existing commitments and programs with their costs) and an analysis of the feasible policy alternatives open to the U. S. with considerations for and against each alternative.* The Staff Study, or at least the analysis of alternatives,

* Normally the Planning Board would depend on the relevant OCB Report referred to in 1 above, for up-to-date information required for revision of an existing policy statement. However, in exceptional circumstances, involving major revision of an existing policy statement, the Planning Board might call for a Staff Study prior to formulation of a new draft statement of policy.

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should be discussed by the Planning Board before a draft statement of policy is prepared, and subsequently circulated to the Council for information along with the Planning Board draft statement of policy.

Purpose: To provide more information on areas not previously considered by the Planning Board, to insure that alternatives are taken into account, and to provide Planning Board guidance to the drafting agency or the Board Assistants in the preparation of a draft statement of policy.

3. An initial draft of a statement of policy (whether a draft revision of existing policy or the initial draft of a new policy), after submission by the drafting agency, should be considered by the Board Assistants before consideration or discussion by the Planning Board. The Board Assistants would be expected to put the paper in the best format for Planning Board consideration; to take into account, with the assistance of the NSC Staff, any Council and Presidential guidance provided by Council discussion of an OCB Report (par. 1 above) or Planning Board discussion of a Staff Study (par. 2 above); to define the issues and clarify the "splits"; and to incorporate in the paper the views of agencies other than the drafting agency. For maximum effectiveness, time should be allowed for "staffing" in the agencies (specifically including consultation between individual Board Assistants and their Planning Board members).

Purpose: To conserve the time and increase the efficiency of the Planning Board through preliminary Board Assistants drafting, identification of issues and inter-departmental coordination prior to Planning Board consideration.

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4. At each Tuesday meeting of the Planning Board* the CIA Adviser should give the Planning Board a brief preview of the topics to be covered in the DCI briefing at the Council meeting on the following Thursday. Other Planning Board members should also indicate any significant national security developments in their respective areas of responsibility (including important diplomatic conversations, new commitments, international conferences, etc.) The Planning Board should discuss these informal briefings and determine whether any developments covered therein should be singled out for Council discussion. In the case of certain topics agreed upon by the Planning Board as suitable for Council discussion, the Planning Board might suggest questions which Mr. Gray might raise at the Council meeting as a basis for such Council discussion. The statement of these questions would include a summary of applicable existing policy. In the case of other topics, the Planning Board might request that an oral report be given by a Council member (e.g., the Secretary of State) at the Council meeting, either at the next Council meeting or on the second Thursday following the Tuesday Planning Board discussion.

Purpose: To insure that significant developments are brought to the timely attention of the Planning Board, to stimulate Council discussion of significant developments on a current basis, and to provide Council and Presidential guidance on the topics discussed.

* The Tuesday meeting should be held at 2:00 p. m. instead of 10:00 a. m. //

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